

“Date”

Mr. John Volentine
1800 Bayou Road
Cheneyville, LA 71325

RE: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-150

Dear Mr. Volentine:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its May 7, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether you could provide vending machines to various state parks in Louisiana while you serve as a Wildlife Agent for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

FACTS PROVIDED

You provided that you are employed as a Wildlife Agent for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (“LDWF”). You stated that you would like to provide live bait vending machines near fishing and camping venues in Louisiana. You stated that you have spoken with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture about placing one of the vending machines at the Indian Creek campground near Woodworth and you would like to consult with Louisiana State Parks and Tourism about placing a vending machine at Bayou Chicot State Park near Ville Platte. You stated that the vending machines would supply live bait, lures, baits, and sun screen to park patrons. You stated that you would not be doing business with LDWF.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a) prohibits a public servant, excluding any legislator and any appointed member of any board or commission and any member of a governing authority of a parish with a population of ten thousand or less, or member of such a public servant’s immediate family, or legal entity in which he has a controlling interest from bidding on or entering into any contract, subcontract, or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded and instructed me to inform you, the Code of Governmental Ethics (Ethics Code) would not prohibit you from contracting or entering into transactions with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture or Louisiana State Parks and Tourism to provide vending machines at various fishing and camping venues in Louisiana. Because you are contracting with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture or Louisiana State Parks and Tourism, you would not be contracting or entering into transactions under the supervision of the LDWF. Thus, you would not be in violation of Section 1113A(1)(a) of the Ethics Code.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Act, and conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws. If you have any questions, please contact me at (225) 219-5600 or (800) 842-6630.

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Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

Gregory L. Thibodeaux
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
*This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only,
and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.*